Date: 12th December 2017  
Venue: Constitution Club of India, New Delhi

RTE Forum has been actively working with communities (through its state chapters) and strengthening their capacities with respect to local level governance, management, monitoring and involvement. The objective is to strengthen the sense of ownership of the communities, with respect to their local schools and help strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism and improving performance of government schools. With the mobilisation of SMCs all over the country, the RTE Forum plans to raise the agenda of structural reform in school education by adopting a bottom-up approach.

Keeping this above objectives, a national level SMC convention was organised to emphasize on the critical role of people and SMC in the process of creature pressure for strengthening government school system in the country. This was the Second National SMC Convention, and was organised on 12th December 2017 and attended by 350 participants from 13 states. The first national SMC convention was organised in 2015. A Delhi declaration was drafted based on the experiences shared by the SMC members in the meeting. Some of the key points which were mentioned in the Declaration:

- Promoting quality equitable education across the country.
- To amplify the aspirations of India’s poor majority population, in particular socially excluded groups like Dalits, Adivasis, Urban Poor and Persons with disabilities, calling for a strong government school system and will work to form a strong federations of SMCs.
- To perform the responsibilities vested in us as per the RTE Act and its State rules and contribute towards making education a key social and political issue.
- To recognize our independent agency and strengthen SMCs, PRIs and the community at large as critical stakeholders in the education process.

1 SMC delegates came from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand